

Allegheny-Clarion Valley School District
Annual Public Notice of Gifted Education Services / Child Find

Notice to Parents

According to state and federal special education regulations, annual public notice to parents of children who reside within a School District is required under the district's child find responsibilities. School Districts are required to conduct child find activities for children who may be eligible for services via Chapter 16, Special Education for Gifted Students.

For additional information regarding gifted services, the parent may refer to 22 PA Code Chapter 16. If a student is both gifted and eligible for Special Education, the procedures in IDEA and Chapter 14 shall take precedence.

Notice of Services for Gifted Students

Even though gifted is not included as one of the disabilities categories under the IDEA 2004, the Pennsylvania State Board of Education's regulations as set forth in Chapter 16, Special Education for Gifted Students, provide that gifted students are considered to be children with exceptionalities and are in need of specially designed instruction.

Under Chapter 16, school districts shall conduct public awareness and inform the public of gifted education services and programs and the manner and access to these services and programs. These awareness activities are designed to reach parents of students enrolled in the A-C Valley schools.

Screening

Chapter 16 requires that each school district shall adopt and use a system to locate and identify all students that are residents of the school district who are thought to be gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. A-CV shall determine the student's needs through a screening and evaluation process that meets the requirements of Chapter 16.

Gifted Multidisciplinary Evaluation

For students who are potentially gifted students, the district will take the following steps:

1. Conduct the Gifted Multidisciplinary Approach
2. Compile a Gifted Written Report
3. Convene a Gifted Individualized Education program team meeting to determine whether the student is gifted; and,
4. Develop a Gifted Individualized Education program if the student is eligible for gifted services

For students who are gifted and eligible for Special Education, the district will provide for a student's needs as both a gifted and eligible for special education.

Screening and identification of gifted students occurs from kindergarten through twelfth grades. Students may be identified in several different ways.

Teacher Referral: Through classroom based assessments and observations, a teacher may identify that a student has exceptional aptitude for academic achievement and creativity. The teacher would request that the multidisciplinary evaluation team review the student's performance data to determine if a more in-depth evaluation is warranted. The multidisciplinary evaluation team is the classroom teacher, the parent/guardian, the school psychologist, the gifted education teacher, and the building principal.

Parent Referral: Parents/Guardians may request that the District review their child's school performance to determine if he/she is gifted and in need of specially designed instruction to meet his/her unique learning needs.

Screening Meeting: When a teacher or parent refers a student, a multidisciplinary team meeting is held. The team consists of: the classroom teacher(s), the parent(s) or guardian(s), the principal, the school psychologist, the gifted education teacher, and any other pertinent professional staff. At the meeting the team reviews the child's performance information. The performance information should include: any current standardized testing information such as PSSA testing, report cards, other curriculum-based assessments, and observations. Based on a review of the information, the team will decide to recommend a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Eligibility Criteria: To be identified as a gifted student, the child must meet these criteria:

1. Score 130 or above on an individual intelligence (IQ) test (such as the WISC-V) and demonstrate through their achievement and rates of acquisition and retention that he/she is a student of gifted ability.
2. If the child scores less than 130 IQ, the student must meet all of the following criteria:
 1. The IQ, or General Ability Index (GAI), confidence interval meets or exceeds 130
 2. The confidence interval meets or exceeds 130 in reading, writing, or mathematics on an individual academic achievement test (such as the KTEA-3)
 3. Scores a year or more above grade achievement level for the normal age group in reading or math as measured by a nationally normed and validated measure (such as the i-Ready assessment)

Once a student has been identified as gifted according to the above criteria, the multi-disciplinary team must decide whether the student is in need of specially designed instruction outside the regular education program to meet his/her unique educational needs. If the team decides that specially designed instruction is needed, the team would write a Gifted Individual Education Program (GIEP) for the child. If the team decides that the child does not need specially designed instruction, the child would continue to receive instruction within the regular education program to meet his/her educational needs. Once a decision has been reached, a Notice of Recommended Assignment (NORA) documents the team's decision. It requires a signature by a parent and by the District Superintendent.

For More Information Contact:

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